

Councilman Paul Cunningham's Ward 2 Newsletter

AUGUST 16, 2013

UPCOMING DATES:

- August 20: Happy Birthday Tucson!
- August 27: Primary Election day
- September 2: Labor Day
- September 16: Mexican Independence Day
- November 5: General Election day

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PAUL'S NOTE

The contract for the red light cameras was renewed back in July with no chance for public review by my colleagues. I was a bit surprised to find out it had already been done, and judging by the phone calls my office has been getting, it frustrates a lot of you.

I met with personnel from both the court and police at the beginning of the summer and I understand how the cameras have reduced accidents and increased traffic safety. I also understand how it reduces the burdens on our already limited police resources.

Whatever the merits of the program are, it is still very controversial. In fact, our fellow citizens gathered thousands of signatures to have the cameras taken down. They weren't able to make the ballot, but this is a discussion that a significant part of our community feels is important.

The decision was made to renew the contract without going before mayor and council has placed us in a precarious position. I have already talked to the city manager, and my office is requesting a study session on the cameras and traffic safety. This discussion is important to a lot of you and needs to be public.

Speaking of the police, every three months, TPD's Operations Division East has a meeting of what they call the District Advisory Committee. It's a chance for neighborhood leaders, city staff, business owners and citizens to find out about what the police are doing in our area and also tell the police about problems that they are seeing in the community. This month's meeting was the first run by Capt. Carla Johnson, the new

head of operations for this division.

What we heard is that crime in a number of areas is down, especially violent crime and burglary. The one area where it is up is larceny, and the lion's share of that increase comes from

one crime: beer skips. So much so that without beer skips, our overall crime rate would be down.

My staff has been in touch with Captain Johnson about this, and I have been working on putting together a group that will include both retailers and law enforcement to see what can be done. For some reason, this is not a problem in other communities.

I talked a little bit about Ft. Lowell and the restoration of the officers' barracks last week. The city and the county are still ironing out their differences. Historical preservation advocates and neighbors from Old Fort Lowell have wanted something done with that property for decades. It is only in the last few years that we have had the opportunity to preserve this unique, historic property. I'd like to see us get this important restoration work get underway, something I've been advocating for a long time, while we settle our differences over the parking lot. These buildings have had decades of ne-



PAUL'S NOTE CONTINUED

glect and we will lose our chance with more delay.

One last note for the oddity file: My office got a call asking why we are having a meeting on Labor Day.

We are and we are not. The city charter mandates that the city council meet on the first Monday after the primary to approve the election canvass. For decades, the primary was in mid-September. The legislature has moved the primary day up in recent years. This puts that first Monday on Labor Day, rather than a few weeks later.

The "Labor Day Meeting" will consist of city clerk calling council to order, and then, seeing a lack of quorum (none of us need to be there), cancel the meeting. We will

be meeting on September 10th, as usual.

Have a great weekend.

CLIMATE SMART SOUTHWEST: READY OR HOT

On Saturday, Sept. 21st, nationally and internationally known speakers will share the latest information about climate change and specific impacts in the Southwest related to public health, adaptation, preparedness, and cross border and cross cultural issues. In the afternoon, attendees will have the opportunity to participate in workshops to prepare and respond to climate change adaptation.

The conference runs from 7:30 AM until 5:30 PM, at the Tucson Convention Center, Meeting Rooms. The cost of just \$35 (\$15 for current students) includes access to speaker sessions, workshops, exhibitions, and includes a free buffet lunch and free on site parking. Visit www.psr.org/azclimate to register.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Starting in July, the Tucson/Pima County Household Hazardous Waste Program is changing the 2nd Saturday Outreach Collection to a "mobile" event. Every month, the collection event will be in a different neighborhood so that more Tucsonans will have easy access to the program. The 1st Saturday collection at the Eastside Service Center, 7575 E Speedway, will still continue. The collections run from 8 am to noon. For more information, visit www.tucsonaz.gov/hhw or call 888-6947

IMPORTANT: Do not drop off household hazardous waste at the Ward 2 council office. We have no way of storing it. Please wait until a scheduled monthly drop off.

1st Saturday: Eastside Service Center, 7575 E Speedway. Enter site by

turning north on Prudence.

2nd Saturday:

September: Himmel Park, 1000 N Tucson Blvd

October: TOPSC Lower Lot, 4004 S Park Ave

November: Mansfield Park, 2000 N 4th Ave

December: Purple Heart Park, 100050 E Rita Ranch Rd

HOME WATER AUDIT

Whether temps soar to 106° or plunge to 23°, being water efficient is important every day of the year. Tucson Water offers free expert advice to help you conserve water, stop leaks and reduce utility bills.

A water efficiency expert from the Tucson Water Zanjero Program will visit your home, review water-use habits, check water fixtures and irrigation systems and install free faucet aerators and showerheads, if needed. Customers also receive a survey of their water use. You must be at home during the two hour Zanjero visit.

For nearly 17 years, Zanjeros have helped Tucson Water customers use water more efficiently inside and outside the home. Schedule your free Zanjero visit today via e-mail TW_web@tucsonaz.gov or phone 520 791-3242

PARKS UP- DATES

The maintenance project at the Udall Park soccer fields has been completed and the fields are now open for reservations. We thank the public for their patience while the fields were closed.

All Tucson Parks and Recreation facilities will be closed on Monday, September 2, 2013 for Labor Day.

The Tucson Parks and Recreation Summer 2013 Program Guide and Class Catalog has been published and is available for pick-up at all Parks and Recreation facilities. The summer issue can also be viewed on-line at www.tucsonaz.gov/parksandrec.

The Program Guide contains complete information on leisure classes, swim lessons, summer KIDCO, aquatics, sports program, sports camps, registration, the Discount Program, and much more.

SOFTBALL

The Fall 2013 Softball season begins the week of September 3, 2013. Registration is currently taking place through August 21st.

Walk-in registration takes place at the Sports Unit in Freedom Center (5000 E. 29th on Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Contact the Sports Unit at 791-4870 for more information.

SENIOR PROGRAM

The Carol West Senior Addition will host a movie matinee on Thursday, August 29 with the viewing of *Oz The Great and Powerful*. Showtime is at 1:30 p.m. and the cost is \$1.00 per person. Snacks will be provided by CareMore. Sign up at the front desk, 791-4121.



Happy Birthday Tucson!

SHRED-A-THON

2013 will mark the 6th year the Pima County Sheriff's Department has provided this valuable service free-of-charge to the community. All confirmed event dates are on Saturdays, and all shredding events will run from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

- September 14 at Kino Sports Complex- 2500 E. Ajo Way
- November 16 at Empire High School- 10701 E. Maryann Cleveland Way



T.E.P. PARTNERS

Lower your electricity bill by tracking your power use! TEP is enrolling participants on a first come first serve basis to join an energy monitoring project to help you save on your electricity bill.

Enroll now by visiting enroll.teppowerpartners.com and sign up while spaces last. You will be contacted by a representative to schedule your installation. A technician will set up and install equipment at your home and show you how to track your use and see your energy savings online.

This program is a free-of-cost pilot program to help TEP customers save electricity and money, so sign up while there's still time! Learn more and sign up by visiting enroll.teppowerpartners.com.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL



Mayor and Council meetings are still on their summer schedule, so the next meeting will be on September 10. Regular Session starts at 5:30 pm following an afternoon study session. There is always a short call to the audience before the business portion of the meeting. Council chambers are located downtown at 255 W Alameda.

The agendas for the meetings are posted online at <http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/clerks/mcdocs>.

We're on the web!
Cms3.tucsonaz.gov/ward2

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Newsletter**

Please bring these items to the Ward
2 Office for the following charities:
THE COMMUNITY FOOD BANK—Non Perishable Items
DIAPER BANK OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA—
Infant/Child/Adult Diapers
TIHAN - Personal Care Items for Individuals
and Families in Need
LIONS CLUB—Eye Glasses
DANCING IN THE STREETS ARIZONA—
Ballet/Dance Equipment
CASA MARIA—Plastic bags